CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT MADE BY THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON 23 NOVEMBER 1999 IN CONNECTION WITH THE SUBMISSION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY, SIGNED BY RUSSIA ON 24 SEPTEMBER 1996, TO THE STATE DUMA OF THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FOR RATIFICATION

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement made by the official representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 23 November 1999 in connection with the submission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, signed by Russia on 24 September 1996, to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation for ratification.

I should be grateful if this statement could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to the delegations of all member States of the Conference and non-member States of the Conference participating in its work.

(Signed) Vassily Sidorov
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
to the Conference on Disarmament

STATEMENT BY THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

23 November 1999

As you may know, the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. B.N. Yeltsin, has submitted the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, signed by Russia on 24 September 1996, to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation for ratification. We hope that the State Duma will give favourable consideration to this matter in the nearest future.

This step by the President of the Russian Federation has again demonstrated the consistency of the Russian leadership's policy aimed at strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime, maintaining strategic stability in the world and preventing the spread and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons.

In accordance with the undertakings it made, Russia has not carried out nuclear tests since October 1990 and does not intend to resume such tests provided, of course, that the other nuclear States also follow this path.

In Moscow we are convinced that the earliest entry into force of the CTBT is in Russia's national interests, and likewise in the interests of the entire international community.

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